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[54] **SONIC TREATMENT TO SELECTIVELY REDUCE THE VOID VOLUME OF SINTERED POLYMERS**

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[58] **Field of Search** 264/603, 442; 422/56, 57, 58, 61, 100–101, 102; 436/168, 164, 169, 63

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a method of sonic treatment to selectively reduce the void volume of a sintered polymer such as porous high density polyethylene (HDPE). The invention also provides a method and an article of manufacture for receiving a liquid sample, where a first portion of the sintered polymer (1*a*) overlies a solid surface (4*a*) and a second portion of the polymer (1*b*) overlies a window (4*b*). Sonic treatment of the sintered polymer reduces the void volume of the first portion (1*a*) compared to the second portion (1*b*). As a result, a liquid sample applied to the polymer will preferentially migrate through the second portion (1*b*), rather than through the first portion (1*a*). When the article of manufacture is used to analyze a liquid sample such as blood, less sample is required because of the preferential migration in the sonically treated sintered polymer.

13 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets